

REMARKS

The Application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed September 10, 2004. Claims 1-16 have been canceled. Claims 18 and 21 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found in the original application as filed at, for example, p. 9, lines 2-4. Claims 17-22 remain pending. The title of the Application has been amended to be more "clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed," as requested by the Office Action. Office Action, at 3. In the specification, a minor amendment was made to correct a typographical error with reference to the Figures.

As an initial matter, Applicants note that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), originally filed on April 12, 2004, was placed in the application file but that the information contained therein has not been considered with respect to two Japanese references (JP2001-28875 and JP2002-27729). Applicants resubmitted JP2001-28875 in a Supplemental IDS on August 9, 2004, and that reference has been acknowledged and considered. With respect to JP2002-27729, please note that this reference was submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2), as this reference was first cited during prosecution of a prior application number 10/219,772, filed August 16, 2002, and relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120. Accordingly, a copy of the reference did not need to be submitted, and the reference should have been considered. MPEP 609 I(A)(2). For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of this reference is being resubmitted with this Response.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The foregoing amendments obviate this objection.

Claims 13, 15, 18, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The foregoing amendments obviate this rejection.

Claims 13-14, 16-17, 19-20, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP Patent No. 10327571A to Tanaka ("Tanaka"). The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration requested.

The present invention relates to a driving system in which teeth provided on one magnetic pole are alternately disposed on one side and the other side of a second member, which makes it possible to reduce stress generation on the movable element by providing a "step portion" on the magnetic pole and by setting the dimensions thereof as defined by independent claims 17 and 20.

Tanaka does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations recited by claims 17 and 20. For example, Tanaka does not disclose "the first magnetic pole comprises a magnetic pole tooth disposed on one side of the second member, and a magnetic pole tooth disposed on the other side of the second member, the magnetic pole teeth being alternately disposed in a relative moving direction of the first and second member," as recited by independent claims 17 and 20 of the invention.

As shown in Fig. 3 of Tanaka, a copy of which is attached hereto after the Remarks, the adjacent teeth A and B provided on one magnetic pole are disposed on the same side of the second member 21. In other words, the teeth provided on the one magnetic pole are not disposed alternately on one side and the other side of the second member, as recited by the claimed invention. Accordingly, the motor disclosed in Tanaka operates according to a different system from the liner motor of the claimed invention.

For at least these reasons, claims 17 and 20 are submitted to be allowable. Claims 19 and 22 depend directly from claims 17 and 20 and contain all the limitations recited therein. For at least these reasons, claims 19 and 22 are also allowable. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 15, 18, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration requested.

Claims 18 and 21 depend respectively from claims 17 and 20 and contain all of the limitations recited therein. For at least the reasons given above regarding the allowability of claims 17 and 20, claims 18 and 21 are also submitted to be allowable and withdraw of this rejection is requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: 12/10/04

Respectfully submitted,

By: Megan S. Woodworth

Mark J. Thronson

Registration No.: 33,082

Megan S. Woodworth

Registration No.: 53,655

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorneys for Applicants

(14)

特開平10-327571

【図3】

